

**In the Claims**

Please amend Claims 8-13 as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) A system for providing lifeline telecommunication service, comprising:

a gateway operable to receive telecommunication information from a telecommunication switch, to generate data packets for communicating the telecommunication information in a first mode of operation and in a second mode of operation, and to communicate the telecommunication information as digital data not encapsulated in data packets in a third mode of operation;

an analog signal service module remotely coupled to the gateway and operable to receive the data packets from the gateway in the first mode of operation, to receive the telecommunication information as digital data not encapsulated in data packets in the third mode of operation, and to generate a first analog telephone signal for communicating the telecommunication information over a local loop circuit; and

an integrated access device coupled to the local loop circuit and operable to receive the first analog telephone signal from the analog signal service module and to communicate the first analog telephone signal to a subscriber line in the first and third modes of operation, the integrated access device further operable to receive the data packets from the gateway, to process the data packets to generate a second analog telephone signal communicating the telecommunication information, and to communicate the second analog telephone signal to the subscriber line the second mode of operation.

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the data packets are communicated to the integrated access device over the local loop circuit using a digital subscriber line in the second mode of operation.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the integrated access device operates in the first or third mode if it does not have power and in the second mode if it has power.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the gateway is further operable to:

determine whether it can communicate with the integrated access device using the data packets;

communicate the data packets to the integrated access device in response to determining that it can communicate with the integrated access device using the data packets; and

communicate the data packets or the telecommunication information not encapsulated in data packets to the analog signal service module in response to determining that it cannot communicate with the integrated access device using the data packets.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 4, wherein the gateway determines that it cannot communicate with the integrated access device if the gateway cannot maintain a virtual circuit between itself and the integrated access device.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the integrated access device comprises:

a processing module operable to receive the data packets from the gateway and to process the data packets to generate the second analog telephone signal communicating the telecommunication information in the second mode of operation; and

a bypass switch operable to communicate the first analog telephone signal to the subscriber line in the first or third mode of operation and to communicate the second analog telephone signal to the subscriber line in the second mode of operation.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein:

the telecommunication information is voice information; and

the first and second analog telephone signals are voice signals.

8. (Currently Amended) A system gateway for providing lifeline telecommunication service to customer premises equipment, comprising:

a telecommunication interface operable to receive telecommunication information from a telecommunication switch;

a data packet service module coupled to the telecommunication interface and operable to receive the telecommunication information from the telecommunication interface and to generate data packets for communicating the telecommunication information, the data packet service module further operable to communicate the data packets to an analog signal service module in a first mode of operation and to communicate the data packets over a local loop circuit to customer premises equipment in a second mode of operation; and

an interface operable to communicate the telecommunication information as digital data not encapsulated in data packets in a third mode of operation.

9. (Currently Amended) The system gateway of Claim 8, wherein the data packet service module communicates the data packets over the local loop circuit to the customer premises equipment using a digital subscriber line access multiplexer (DSLAM).

10. (Currently Amended) The system gateway of Claim 8, further comprising a management module operable to:

determine whether the data packet service module can communicate data packets with the customer premises equipment;

select the first or third mode of operation in response to determining that the data packet service module cannot communicate data packets with the customer premises equipment; and

select the second mode of operation in response to determining that the data packet service module can communicate data packets with the customer premises equipment.

11. (Currently Amended) The system gateway of Claim 10, wherein the management module determines that the data packet service module cannot communicate data packets with the customer premises equipment if the data packet service module cannot maintain a virtual circuit between the gateway and the customer premises equipment.

12. (Currently Amended) The system gateway of Claim 8, wherein the analog signal service module is remotely coupled to the telecommunication interface using a digital link.

13. (Currently Amended) The system gateway of Claim 8, wherein the analog signal service module is operable to process the data packets to generate an analog telephone signal for communicating the telecommunication information over the local loop circuit to the customer premises equipment.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of providing lifeline telecommunication service to customer premises equipment using a gateway, comprising:

receiving telecommunication information from a telecommunication switch;

generating data packets for communicating the telecommunication information in a first mode of operation and a second mode of operation;

communicating the data packets to an analog signal service module in the first mode of operation;

communicating the data packets over a local loop circuit to customer premises equipment in the second mode of operation; and

communicating the telecommunication information as digital data not encapsulated in data packets to the analog signal service module in a third mode of operation.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 14, further comprising:

processing the data packets to generate a first analog telephone signal at the analog signal service module; and

communicating the first analog signal over the local loop circuit.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15, further comprising:  
communicating the first analog telephone signal from the local loop circuit to a subscriber line in the first and third mode of operation; and  
processing the data packets from the local loop circuit to generate a second analog telephone signal for communication to the subscriber line in the second mode of operation.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein communicating the data packets over the local loop circuit to the customer premises equipment further comprises using a digital subscriber line.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14, further comprising:  
identifying a destination integrated access device (IAD) for the telecommunication information;  
determining whether the gateway can communicate with the IAD using the data packets;  
selecting the first or third mode of operation in response to determining that the gateway cannot communicate with the IAD using the data packets; and  
selecting the second mode of operation in response to determining that the gateway can communicate with the IAD using the data packets.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein determining whether the gateway can communicate with the IAD using the data packets further comprises determining whether the gateway can maintain a virtual circuit between itself and the IAD.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising determining that the gateway cannot communicate with the IAD using the data packets if the IAD loses powers, is disconnected from the local loop circuit, or has an internal failure.